

Message Text

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BELGRADE FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: CSCE, CVIS, SHUM, CZ
SUBJECT: DIVIDED FAMILIES

1. ON DEC 21 CONOFFS PRESENTED UPDATED DIVIDED FAMILIES LIST TO DR. HOUZVICKA OF MFA'S CONSULAR DEPT. CONOFFS EMPHASIZED THAT LIST, WHICH INCLUDES NUCLEAR AND NON NUCLEAR CASES PLUS FIANCEES AND FORMER PERMANENT RESIDENTS, IS AN INFORMAL DOCUMENT WHICH WE ARE USING TO MAKE OUR CONCERNS KNOWN AT THE WORKING LEVEL, AND THAT WE PLANNED TO PRESENT UPDATED VERSIONS AT APPROXIMATELY SIX MONTH INTERVALS (PREVIOUS LIST WAS HANDED OVER IN JUNE 1977). HOUZVICKA SAID THAT LIST WAS USEFUL IN FOCUSING HIS OWN EFFORTS AND AGREED TO BIENNIAL UPDATES. (LIST BEING POUCHED TO STATE.)

2. HOUZVICKA THEN DISCUSSED IN GUARDEDLY POSITIVE TONES THE IV CASE OF DR. LIM, WHICH WILL BE TREATED IN SEPTTEL.

3. CONOFFS NOTED THAT SIX CASES FROM PREVIOUS DF LIST WERE RESOLVED DURING LAST TWO MONTHS, AND THAT THREE OR FOUR OTHERS ARE CLOSE TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESOLUTION. WE SAID THAT WE VIEWED THIS AS SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS, AND THAT IF IT WERE TO CONTINUE, A SERIOUS BILATERAL PROBLEM WOULD BE EASED. THEN WE ASKED HOUZVICKA WHAT HE FORESAW FOR THE FUTURE, PARTICULARLY IN REFERENCE TO NON-NUCLEAR CASES.

4. HOUZVICKA BEGAN HIS REPLY BY DISCUSSING CASES INVOLVING MINOR CHILDREN. THESE CASES SHOULD PRESENT NO PROBLEM, HE SAID, IF THE

PARENTS COULD ADJUST THEIR LEGAL RELATIONS WITH THE CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT UNDER THE 1928 TREATY OR BY COMPLYING WITH REGULATION NO 58. PROBLEMS MIGHT ARISE IF THE CHILDREN DID NOT WANT TO EMIGRATE, BUT IF THAT OCCURED, THE PARENTS WOULD BE GIVEN A CHANCE TO CONVINCE THE CHILDREN TO REJOIN THEM.

5. INDIVIDUALS WHOSE SPOUSES HAD EMIGRATED ILLEGALLY WOULD BE ALLOWED TO EMIGRATE, HE SAID, AFTER THOSE SPOUCES HAD ADJUSTED THEIR LEGAL RELATIONS WITH THE GOC. COMPLICATIONS ARISE WHEN THE EMIGRANT SPOUSE HAS BEEN STRIPPED OF CITIZENSHIP (REGULATION NTO. 58 PROHIBITS CONTACTS WITH SUCH OUTCASTS), BUT THE MFA WAS ATTEMPTING TO RESOLVE EVEN THESE CASES BECAUSE OF THE HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS.

6. CASES INVOLVING ADULTS WHO WISHED TO EMIGRATE AND JOIN PARENTS IN THE U.S. WOULD WAIT UNTIL OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS IMPROVED, HE SAID, AND ADDED THAT WE SHOULD NOT EXPECT THESE CASES TO BE RESOLVED IN 1978.

7. LAST IN ORDER OF DIFFICULTY CAME THE CASES OF ADULTS EMIGRATING TO JOIN BROTHERS OR SISTERS IN THE U.S. HOUZVICKA ONLY COMMENTED THAT IN VIEW OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS, SUCH CASES COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED AT THIS TIME. (COMMENT: LAST JANUARY HOUZVICKA SPECIFICALLY TOLD US THT ADULT SIBLINGS WOULD NOT BE REUNITED-SEE PRAGUE 0150).
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8. COMMENT: AT THIS TIME THE RATE OF RESOLUTION OF DF CASES IS MUCH HIGHER THANUSUAL; IN FACT, IT HAS PROBABLY NEVER BEEN HIGHER. THIS HAS COME ABOUT BECAUSE OF THE GOC'S DECISION TO CHANGE ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD MOST "ILLEGAL EMIGRANTS" WHO HAVE BEEN OUT OF THE COUNTRY FOR AT LEAST FIVE YEARS. THIS DECISION WAS EMBODIED IN REGULATION NO 58, AND BY EXTENSION IT APPLIES INDIRECTLY TO THOSE NATURALIZED AMERICANS WHO LOST THEIR CZECHOSLOVAK CITIZENSHIP UNDER THE 1928 TREATY. IT NOW APPEARS THAT THE MFA IS WILLING TO GO BEYOND THE LANGUAGE OF REGULATION NO 58 (WHICH PROVIDES ONLY FOR THE EMIGRATION OFMINOR CHILDREN) IN SETTTLING DIVIDED FAMILIES CASES. THUS WE NOW HAVE REASON TO HOPE THATOVER THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS, A LARGE NUMBER OF OUR NUCLEAR DIVIDED FAMILIES CASES MAY BE RESOLVED.
BYRNE

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